

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5818

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USDEL PARIS

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY NEWDELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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USMISSION GENEVE IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS SAIGON 5623

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, VS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT HUONG ASKS FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DECISION
TO HAVE DUONG VAN (BIG) MINH SUCCEED HIM AS PRESIDENT

1. IN BRIEF AND EMOTION FILLED ADDRESS BEFORE JOINT SESSION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON MORNING, APRIL 26, PRESIDENT HUONG ASKED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO DECIDE QUESTION OF WHETHER GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH COULD SUCCEED HIM AS PRESIDENT IN ORDER TO SET UP GOVERNMENT THAT CAN NEGOTIALE WITH OTHER SIDE TO ACHIEVE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT. PRESIDENT HUONG SAID HE CONTACTED MANY PERSONALITIES OF VARIOUS POLITICAL PERSUASION AND HAD ASKED MINH FIRST TO SERVE AS PRIME MINISTER BUT MINH HAD ASKED FOR PRESIDENCY. NOTING THAT MINH HAD ALL QUALIFICATIONS TO ACHIEVE NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, PRESIDENT HUONG SAID HE WAS REQUESTING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO DECIDE TRANSFER OF POWER TO GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH, AND REAFFIRMED THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS SURRENDER.

2. NOTING THAT ONLY MR III AND IV REMAIN UNDER GVN CONTROL, PRESIDENT HUONG MENTIONED GRAVE SITUATION FACING COUNTRY AND DECLARED THAT NEGOTIATION MATTER OF CONSCIENCE AND HUMANITY. PRESIDENT HUONG DESCRIBED MINH AS CLOSE FRIEND AND LIKE STUDENT OF HIS. PRESIDENT HUONG ALSO STATED THAT OTHER SIDE HAD AGREED TO NEGOTIATE WITH MINH AND THAT GNERAL MUST HAVE AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE BUT RAISED QUESTION OF IN "WHAT CAPACITY AND AS WHOSE REPRESENTATIVE" MINH WOULD SERVE. CONTENDING THAT DECISION MUST BE MADE BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, PRESIDENT HUONG URGED NEGOTIATING WITHIN SPIRIT OF PARIS ACCORDS AND CONCLUDED THAT SVN MUST ACCEPT NEGOTIATIONS IN ORDER FOR BOTH SIDES TO LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE.

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EM AFTER PRESIDENT FINISHED SPEECH AND LEFT CHAMBER, PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATE CHAIRMAN TRAN VAN LAM) ANNOUNCED THAT DEPUTIES AND SENATORS WOULD FIRST MEET IN BLOC CAUCUSES AND FULL SESSION WOULD BE RESUMED LATER IN DAY. HE ADDED THAT LUNCH WOULD BE SERVED ON THE SPOT SO URGENT WORK OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WOULD NOT BE INTERRUPTED.
MARTIN

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NNN

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To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006